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MEMOIR

OF

WILLIAM A. JACKSON,

A

MEMBER OF THE ALBANY BAR,

AND

Colonel of the 18th Regiment, N. Y. Volunteers,

WHO DIED AT THE CITY OF WASHINGTON,

NOVEMBER 11, 1861.

PUBLISHED BY THE BAR OF THE CITY OF ALBANY.



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MEMOIR.

Col. WILLIAM AYRAULT JACKSON was born in the city of Schenectady, N. Y., on the 29th day of March, 1832. His father, Isaac W. Jackson, was then Professor of Mathematics in Union College, of which he was a graduate, a position he has held uninterruptedly to the present time.

William was the eldest of the family. He fitted for college at home, under the instruction of his father, and entered at the early age of fifteen the Freshman Class of Union, at the commencement of the academic year in 1847.

During his collegiate career, he displayed marked and brilliant talents in various departments, and by the exhibition of the frank and generous qualities, which were characteristic of him, made among the under graduates of his time many and warm friends. He then more particularly won distinction as a forc-

ble and elegant extempore speaker, and skilful debater. In these accomplishments he was acknowledged to be without a rival among his college cotemporaries, and they were at a later period exercised with effect on the wider field of political discussion.

He graduated with honor in the summer of 1851, and during the succeeding year remained at home, devoting his attention to the study of general literature, and giving some of his time to the study of the law, that being the profession which he had chosen. Previous, however, to his regular entry upon his legal studies, and during the year 1852, he spent some months with an uncle, Mr. I. C. Chesbrough, a civil engineer, and at that time engaged upon the survey of the Albany and Susquehanna Rail Road. In December, 1852, he removed to the city of Albany, with some of the most prominent and influential families in which he was nearly connected, and entered the office of Marcus T. Reynolds, Esq. He also, about the same time, attended a course of lectures at the Albany Law School. He was admitted to the bar on the 10th of April, 1853, and immediately commenced the practice of his profession in Albany, which was his residence until his death.

Soon after the commencement of his legal career, he

formed a partnership with his cousin, Frederick Townsend, Esq., an accomplished gentleman, since so favorably known as Adjutant General of the State during the whole of Gov. King's and a part of Gov. Morgan's administration, who as Colonel of the 3d Regiment of New York Volunteers distinguished himself by his brilliant gallantry at the battle of Big Bethel, and is now a Major in the United States Infantry. They were associated during the whole of Colonel Jackson's connection with the law. For a short period, during the year 1857, Alfred Conkling, formerly United States District Judge of the Northern District of New York, was professionally connected with them, under the firm name of Conkling, Townsend & Jackson. On the 1st of May, 1858, their business association with Judge Conkling having previously terminated, they took as a partner Richard M. Strong, Esq., and the firm name was changed to Townsend, Jackson & Strong. This partnership continued until the stirring national events of the spring of 1861 turned the thoughts of all from peaceful pursuits to arms, when Col. Jackson, who had been at the commencement of that year appointed and now held the office of Inspector General of the State, relinquished the profession to which he had been bred, and engaged in

the defence of the government, in the great struggle inaugurated by the attack upon and fall of Fort Sumpter.

Before proceeding to the mention of Col. Jackson's brief but honorable military career, we pause to say a few words of the character and talents which he displayed during the time of his practice at the bar. Possessed of a singularly handsome person, with frank and genial manners, having a bold and energetic character, and a quick penetrating intellect, being an agreeable speaker and a vigorous writer, he fast made friends and admirers, and soon acquired a prominent and influential position at the capital of the state. Well grounded in the principles of the law, and prompt in the despatch of business, he obtained a very considerable professional practice. Always taking a deep interest in politics, state and national, and mingling freely and on intimate terms during almost the whole of this period with the most distinguished political leaders, he soon became appreciated as a man of ability, and a brilliant and effective speaker. His political views being in accordance with those of the Republican party, he early took that side, and in the campaigns of 1856, 1858 and 1860, rendered valuable services with his pen, and on the stump, to that organ-

ization. In 1858, indeed, he made quite an extended tour, and addressed numerous large assemblies in the western part of the state.

When, therefore, in the spring of 1861 he embraced with characteristic ardor the career of arms, he had acquired a high position in his profession and in society, and was making himself felt and his influence appreciable to a degree unusual in one so young.

No reasons then for so complete a change in the plan and pursuits of his life existed, other than a generous patriotism and an honorable ambition to win the praise of honest men by his sacrifices for and services to his country.

Successful in raising a regiment whose superior in *material* was not to be found in the state, he originally intended to take the position of Lieutenant-Colonel, devolving its command upon an army officer of experience. His plans failed in that respect, and after much hesitation and doubt from a consciousness of his inexperience, he was finally prevailed upon to accept the Coloneley. On the 18th of June, 1861, he received his commission as Colonel of this, the 18th Regiment of New York Volunteers, with the rank from May 13th, 1861. From the breaking out of the war in April to the time he received his commission, he had

been arduously engaged as Inspector-General of the State in aiding the Governor in the organization of its forces, and hence by close application had acquired military knowledge which was of value to him in his new position.

From the day, however, that he took command of the 18th he was constant and unwearied in his devotion to and care for his men. Not unwilling to learn, nor unwisely self-confident as were some of the new officers of volunteers at that period, by the industrious application of his quick vigorous mind to the acquisition of a knowledge of the details of his duty, he very soon mastered them.

His Regiment left Albany in June, and proceeding directly to Washington, encamped near the city. Here began his first trial of camp life. The officers under his command were with but very few exceptions without experience or practical military knowledge, and the men, like almost all the volunteers at that time, owing to the busy brief period that had elapsed since their enlistment, were a mere uniformed mass without drill or discipline, rather than a regiment of soldiers.

To change all this was the determination of the Colonel. He resolved to make it a regiment in truth, and one which should be inferior to none in the field.

With this object in view, he was devoted, constant and unwearied, sparing neither body nor mind, but straining every faculty from the time he arrived at Washington until the disastrous battle of Manassas, and indeed until his death, in his efforts to perfect himself as an officer, and to bring to a high state of discipline the men under his command. In how short a time he, with the earnest and praiseworthy co-operation of his officers, succeeded in doing this; and how well he did succeed, was soon to be shown.

On the 12th of July, in accordance with the general plan of a forward movement into Virginia, his Regiment was ordered across the Potomac and encamped near Alexandria. About the same time it was brigaded with the 16th, 31st and 32d New York Volunteers, forming together the 2d Brigade under the command of Col. Davies of the 16th Regiment.

On the 16th of July, commenced the memorable advance of the army of the Potomac; Col. Jackson's Regiment moved from Alexandria in the afternoon of that day, and, together with the other regiments forming the 2d Brigade, took part in the battle, or rather prolonged skirmish, of the 18th of July. In this, his conduct was gallant and meritorious, and his men behaved with the steadiness of veterans. In the battle

of Manassas, on the 21st of July, which resulted so disastrously to our arms, the 2d Brigade were upon the left and constituted the reserve, not taking part in the main battle, fought principally by the right and centre.

It does not, of course, come within the scope of this Memoir to attempt any general description of the events of that terrible and humiliating day. It is sufficient to say that the 18th Regiment, the whole 2d Brigade, and indeed the whole Division, of which it formed a part, behaved with marked gallantry and steadiness. The 2d Brigade, covering Captains Green and Hunt's Batteries during the early part of the day, and with them effectually defeating a formidable attempt of the enemy's right to flank the left of our line, when later our troops fled in such panic and confusion from the field, was ordered to Centreville to protect the retreat. As to what followed and the conduct of Col. Jackson at this crisis, an extract from the report of Capt. Green, in command of a battery, gives an interesting account :

“I chose a position,” he says, “on the crest of a hill which, from its shape, gave command of the ground to our left and also of the road along which our Division was retiring. From this position I could perfectly

sweep with my fire 180° front, right and left, down a gentle slope. Four regiments were placed as my support, and the force at this point could have stopped double its number.

“At this point an unauthorized person gave orders to retreat; I refused the order, *but all my supporting regiments but one (Col. Jackson's 18th N. Y. V.), moved off to the rear. Col. Jackson most gallantly offered his Regiment as a support, saying ‘that it should remain by me as long as there should be any fighting to be done there.’* The above mentioned person again made his appearance at this time and again ordered me to retreat, and ordered Col. Jackson to form column of division on my right and retreat with me as all was lost. The order was of course disregarded and in about two minutes the head of a column of the enemy's cavalry came up at a run, opening out of the woods in beautiful order. I was prepared for it, and the column had not gone more than a hundred yards out of the woods before shells were burst at their head and directly in their midst. They broke in every direction, and no more cavalry came out of the woods.”

The 18th, in compliance with orders from the Commanding General, retreated covering Green's Battery;

halted for a short time at Fairfax; Col. Jackson ascertaining that the General, despairing of bringing the defeated army to a halt, had himself gone to Washington, it again resumed the retreat and at midday on the 22d took possession of its old camp at Alexandria. This retreat was effected in perfect good order throughout; and on the way back the Colonel was enabled to afford aid to his fellow-townsmen, Lieut. Hill of the U. S. Artillery, in bringing off two of the guns of his battery.

All the officers who were present bear testimony to the gallantry of Col. Jackson, and the admirable behavior of his Regiment, throughout that memorable advance towards and retreat from Manassas.

During the whole time he was almost constantly mounted, and he bore up with astonishing endurance under the most exhausting fatigue. He says himself, in a letter written to a friend on the 23d of July: "from half past two Sunday morning until Monday at midday, we neither slept nor rested. I was in my saddle nearly all the time."

After this battle, the Regiment not sharing in the general demoralization of the troops, remained near Alexandria; shifting its camp occasionally, taking its turn at guard and picket duty, and for a time engaged

in building Fort Ward, one of the numerous fortifications erected to protect Washington.

When Gen. McClellan, taking command, commenced the reorganization of the Army of the Potomac, the 18th Regiment was placed in Gen. Newton's Brigade and Gen. Franklin's Division.

The devotion and enthusiasm of Col. Jackson, in raising to the highest standard the discipline and *morale* of his men, did not flag. Until attacked by his last illness, he was hardly ever absent from the camp, and it was an extremely rare thing for him to sleep out of it; and he took eagerly upon his shoulders the thousand constant cares and labors consequent upon a scrupulously conscientious discharge of his duties. In a word, his whole time and energies were employed. In all this, and indeed during the whole of his connection with the Regiment, it is but justice to record, that his efforts were much aided, and the character of the regiment for discipline and efficiency raised, by the steady support and uniformly gallant conduct of his Lieutenant Colonel (now Colonel), Young, a townsman, and the officer who succeeded him in command.

These wearing anxieties of his responsible position, and the unaccustomed privations and exposures of

life in the field, in an unhealthy climate, were unfortunately laying in the constitution of Jackson the foundations of fatal disease. His health, which had been, through life, up to this period, almost perfect, now showed signs of giving way; and during a hurried visit home in August, his friends were alarmed at the inroads made by fatigue and anxiety upon it. Although, for some time after his return to the regiment, he seemed better, he was towards the end of October seized with an illness, which, assuming the form of bilious remittent fever, proved fatal. Prostrated for some days in his tent, his brother officers were unable to induce him to "give up" and seek relief from his official duties, and it was not until his illness assumed a most serious form, that he consented to apply to be removed to Washington. This was done on the 30th of October, and Dr. Stone, one of the most eminent physicians of the city, was then immediately called to his bedside, but it was too late. For a few days, no critical symptoms appeared, and his condition was not considered as imminently dangerous until the 7th of November. Hemorrhage of the bowels, and afterwards of the brain, then set in, destroying all hope. On Monday, the 11th of November, a little before six o'clock in the evening,

his spirit passed away. His last words were these, uttered just before the power of articulation departed, in a strong, deliberate voice, but evidently with great effort: "I do believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, I trust in Him."

The remains of Col. Jackson were taken home for interment. They were escorted to the cars at Washington by his regiment, every member of which expressed a desire to testify his respect for his beloved Colonel. At Albany, they were received by the military of the city, and lay in state.

He was buried at Schenectady on the 14th of November, 1861.

Borne to his last resting place by the friends of his youth whom he loved so well, amid the scenes of his boyhood he sleeps, requiemed by the sighing pines which wave over his grave.

Beautiful and joyous was his youth; bold and vigorous his manhood; his death honorable, nay glorious; for, although he fell not by the sword nor amid the maddening whirl and din of battle, yet by his self-consuming labors for his country's weal, were sown the seeds of that fell disease which was his destroyer.

He was young when he died, but so matured was

his character, so rich in all manly qualities, that he seemed to have passed his contemporaries, and to have taken, by a single bound, a high place above them.

The civil war, which he lived to see assume gigantic and fearful proportions, still rages undiminished; the eyes of all men are riveted, not to be turned aside but for an instant, upon that great drama. Act follows act so rapidly that yesterday seems a year ago, and the events of the past float in our remembrance vaguely and uncertainly as last summer's clouds. The tumult and peril of the time forbid to linger long over the tomb of the most loved one, and the mighty flood of public grief and calamity seems to drown all private sorrow. Yet the memory of the departed Jackson remains and will ever remain fresh and vivid in the hearts of the many friends and companions of his life. In brighter, happier days in the future, when peace shall again smile upon the land, and time shall have softened the first sharp pangs of their grief, they will speak gently and regretfully but proudly together of the one who is gone, recalling the eagle eye, the noble port, the bright intellect and the generous heart of him summoned so early, but who so well ran his brief race on earth.

Proceedings of the Albany Bar.

At a meeting of the Bar of the City of Albany, held at the City Hall, on the 14th day of November, 1861.

On motion of Mr. John J. Olcott, Mr. Jacob I. Werner was called to the Chair, and Messrs. Isaac Edwards and Ernest J. Miller were appointed Secretaries.

On motion of Hon. A. D. Robinson, the Chair appointed Messrs. Robinson, J. V. L. Pruyn, R. M. Strong, R. W. Peckham, Jr., and J. B. Sturtevant, a Committee to prepare resolutions expressing the sense of the meeting.

Hon. Clark B. Cochrane then addressed the meeting as follows :

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Bar :

The news of the event which has called together the Bar of Albany, on the present occasion, has fallen with mournful weight upon the hearts of millions of

our countrymen. The removal by death of William A. Jackson from the newly chosen field of his activities, in the midst of his growing usefulness and rising fame, and in view of what he was and what he promised to become, produced, as it was calculated to produce, a profound sensation in the public mind. The deep and universal solicitude, the expressions of private hopes and public anxiety with reference to the chances of his recovery, from the time his dangerous illness became known until the announcement of its fatal termination, the imposing demonstrations of respect tendered to his memory and services, and the multiplied evidences of sincere and general sorrow which have followed that announcement, admonish us that our professional brother, whose loss we mourn and whose recollection we cherish, was no ordinary personage. It rarely happens, even in our own glorious country, where all legal and adventitious hindrances are removed from before the march of merit, where the race is usually to the swift and the battle to the strong, that one comes to occupy, at so early an age, so large a measure in the public eye, or possess so firm a hold of the popular heart. Though yet in the early dawn and dew of manhood, Col. Jackson has inscribed his name upon the imperishable records

of his country, and left his footprints deeply traced on the sands of time. A nation, for whose life and whose honor he drew his sword, witnessed, with emotions of sorrow, his passage from the theatre of life; and the great, the gifted, and the brave followed his bier and mingled as mourners in his funeral train. Thus, let a grateful people ever hallow the memory of the brave defenders of the land and flag of our fathers. Our departed friend has left a blameless life, a bright and brave example for the imitation of all, especially for our youth. At a period when success, with young men of brightest promise, is yet the subject of conjecture, he had accomplished ends and achieved a position which exempt life from the possibilities of failure, and enabled him to say, as he turned his youthful eyes for the last time to the light of Heaven, I have not "lived in vain nor spent my strength for naught."

A gentleman by instinct and education, possessed of a fine person and fascinating manners, a large heart and a true and genial nature, endowed with a rare intellect, enriched by varied and manly cultivation, he became the idol of every circle in which he mingled, a cherished companion among his associates, the trusted depositary of the most sacred treasures of a well chosen friendship, the pride of his family and

kindred, and a favorite with the public. As a public speaker Col. Jackson was eloquent and forcible, and to rare conversational powers he added the pen of a ready and elegant writer. As a member of this bar, at which he had secured no indifferent reputation, we remember him as a brother without reproach. His warm hand, his beaming and manly face, will greet us no more. We shall miss him at the bar, in the halls of justice, from our social gatherings, in the public and private walks of life, but in the innermost shrines of our hearts, and so long as life lasts, we will cherish his memory, fragrant with every manly virtue, and free from every suspicion of dishonor. We will think of him for his noble qualities of head and heart, for the example he has left behind him, for the expectations he had realized, and the hopes he had inspired.

In all the relations of private life, and in all the varied and responsible positions with which he was trusted, he preserved to the last "the whiteness of his soul, and men weep for him."

It is, after all, as a patriot and soldier, and not as a lawyer, we meet to do him honor. True, the ranks of our profession have been invaded and another link has been stricken from the bright fraternal chain which binds us together; a choice spirit has dropt

from our circle and passed forever away, and we confess our loss ; but it is our country and not our class that is smitten by this bereavement. Brave of heart and strong of hand, loving his country and revering her insulted flag, he was among the first to respond to the call of the nation, in the hour of her sudden and greatest peril. Though uneducated to the profession of arms, he brought to the duties of his high command unwearied industry and all the acknowledged vigor of his mind, and at the time of his death had already become an accomplished and efficient officer, enjoyed the confidence of the Government and of his superiors in command, was rapidly rising in the opinions of the army, and had secured to the fullest extent the respect and love of his gallant Regiment, which, under his discipline, had become by common consent one of the best and most efficient in the service.

Tried upon the field of battle and found wanting in none of the stern requisites of a soldier, he had before him the promise of a brilliant and glorious future. In the inscrutable providence of God, the hand of death has overtaken him and he is removed from the tumult of arms and the scenes of earth. But he has fallen in the career of duty and the path of fame, with his bow

bent, his feet to the field and his armor on. To the patriot the memory of such is sweet.

S. O. Shepard, Esq., then spoke as follows :

Mr. Chairman :

The character of William A. Jackson requires not eulogy, to commemorate its beauty. Yet a suggestion has just been made to me, the propriety of which cannot be questioned, that some member of this Bar, should in behalf of the Bar briefly endorse the truthful and touching tribute which has just been rendered to his memory.

That duty should more properly be performed, by some one whose acquaintance with the deceased had been of longer standing, and whose intercourse with him had been more intimate than have mine. Until within two years immediately preceding his death, I had known but little of William A. Jackson. Since that time by a casual incident I had been brought into more intimate association with him, sufficiently so to see, in that brief period, very much to love and very much to admire. For his was a character of that cast which required not long years of intercourse for its proper appreciation.

Cultivated in his tastes, broadly catholic in his

opinions and unselfish in his disposition, manly in bearing and frank in address, in his intercourse with men he at once demanded from them the confidence which by them was at once as readily conceded. With such qualifications he adopted the profession of law; a profession which bestows with but niggard hand her commendation, unless that commendation be deserved; and yet I hesitate not in saying, that I express but the opinion of every gentleman of this Bar when I say, that William A. Jackson had already attained in that profession a position which is more frequently denied, than conceded, to those whose years by scores outnumbered his own. Mingling much with men as he did, and possessing an address which so readily commended him to the favorable recognition of the people, he soon became intensely interested in the great political questions of the day. Identifying himself heartily with those principles which distinguished the party in whose ranks he was enrolled, he enlisted, in the advocacy and support of those principles, a cultivated mind and a ready and graceful oratory.

And, when, owing to those events so familiar to all, which have cast a shadow so deep and so dark over the political destinies of our country, principles could no longer be advocated in the field of intellect;

when the pen was compelled to give place to physical prowess, and logic to the stern arbitrament of the sword; when our stricken country, turned her troubled eye towards her loyal sons, almost despairingly to ask, who among them would advocate her cause, the cause of liberty, in this new field, on whose bloody sod, death lurked, in his most horrid forms; then was heard the ready response of William A. Jackson, true to himself, true to his unselfish nature, and true to his country, alike in her woe as in her weal, "Here am I, send me!" Turning resolutely from the inducements of a noble and remunerative profession, as well as from the attractions of cultivated society and the amenities of home, he stepped unfalteringly forth from the vocations of peace to offer himself a volunteer in the cause of his country. The offer was the result of no transient enthusiasm fanned into life by the breeze of these mighty events, which, as they swept by in their ordained procession, were shaking to its foundations the fabric of our national existence. Nor was it the creature of that harmless vanity which exults in the display of military insignia in holiday parade. No! no! For, hark! the measured tread of armed men falls upon the ear; and they are clad, too, not in the trappings of holiday parade, but in the

stern habiliments of active service. It is the tramp of a regiment! the 18th Regiment, as it moves through the streets of our city on its way to do battle in the cause of our country. And at its head, with steady step, marches its young and chivalrous Colonel,—William A. Jackson.

But William A. Jackson is *dead! dead*, ere the first ruddy flush of early manhood had faded from his cheek,—dead, before the last echoes of the heavy tramp of his marching regiment had fairly died from our hearing. That sad, sad pageant of yesterday, with its funeral melodies, its riderless horses, and its sorrow-bowed mourners, tells us that the tumult of the coming conflict and the clash of arms will only fall upon a dull, cold ear; that his eye will never again light up with the enthusiasm of battle, or kindle with joy over the brightening prospects of the country which he loved.

But, with such a record, it seems almost but idle ceremony to stand here and utter words of eulogy.

William A. Jackson has bequeathed to those who survive him a name not, perhaps, imperishable, but one which will be identified with the future history of his country.

Although he died not, perhaps, as a soldier would

most wish to die, upon the battle-field, with his face to the foe, fanned by the folds of his country's flag, as it waves in the rush of the conflict, yet he died in his country's cause, in his country's service, and with "his martial cloak around him." He has laid upon the altar of his country all that she could ask of her child,—himself. History will do him justice; his country will not forget him.

Blessings be upon his memory, and "may the earth rest light upon him!"

His Honor, Recorder Austin, further addressed the meeting, as follows:

Without solicitation from any one, but simply because I feel that it becomes me to contribute my mite to the honor which we have met to pay to the memory of one of the most esteemed of the younger members of our bar, I beg to be indulged in the expression of my own sympathy with all that has been said and done here.

It was my fortune to know him not only in the exercise of his profession, but also with a considerable degree of personal intimacy. I can add nothing but my approval to what has been said of his uncommon aptitude for professional pursuits, his quick and pene-

trating intelligence, his ready word, his scholarly acquirements, and his genial and generous nature.

In this last respect, he added the quality, which often renders men beloved as well as respected, of being quite as confiding in the honor of others, as he was himself faithful to any confidence reposed in him.

We have come here, however, to honor him not merely, nor indeed mainly, for his professional and social character, but for the devotion of his life to the service of his country at a dark crisis in her history, and I cannot omit an allusion to the spirit and motive with which he entered on his last career. In my own judgment, it was not through any vulgar ambition for mere military distinction, but from a conviction of duty much more honorable to him.

In a brief but free conversation with him at the first outbreak of the war, he gave such expression to his sentiments on this matter, as satisfied me that he did it from a sense of personal obligation, which bound him by every consideration of respect for his own character and his own position in the world, to make every sacrifice for the restoration of his country, and called upon him, like an outspoken public opinion, that *he* should go!

It always seemed to me, therefore, that he enlisted in this war in the spirit of sacrifice, which makes men not only heroes and patriots, but martyrs.

In obeying this sentiment of duty, and giving away his life in a cause so noble, he has given proof of a loyalty and public spirit which sheds, not only upon his own name and on our own bar, but on our entire profession, a ray of enduring honor.

Hon. John V. L. Pruyn then said :

It is not my intention, Mr. Chairman, to add to what has so appropriately been said of the life and character of Mr. Jackson, but simply to speak of my regard for his memory, and to express the respect and deep sympathy I entertain for the father and the mother who have lost a much loved son, and for the family circle from which a dearly prized member has been suddenly removed.

I knew the deceased somewhat, almost from his boyhood, and for some years past had met him frequently in social life, and occasionally in professional matters. His manly bearing, his frankness, his kindness of heart, and his good mental capacities, impressed me most favorably, and I looked upon his future as one both of hope and promise. He went forth as a true

member of our profession to the defence of the constitution and laws of his country, most unjustifiably assailed by some of its own sons, and laid down his life in the effort to re-establish and vindicate the authority of the government under which he was born, and to which he acknowledged his faith and allegiance. He died early, but he died well. It becomes me not to speak of his closing hours, more than to say that he met his last foe, he to whom we all must bow, with calmness and hopeful trust in the future, and that we have good reason to believe that he left the struggles of this life for the rest and peace of a better.

I am glad to find so many of the members of the Bar met to honor the memory of their departed brother, and I hope that our proceedings may be placed in a more extended and permanent form, than the brief notice to which the journals of the day must necessarily be confined.

J. M. Kimball, Esq., then spoke as follows :

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen :

In all that has been said of our deceased brother, I fully concur. The eloquent tributes paid to his memory are well deserved. He was possessed of great talents, adorned by a finished education. Scarce thirty

years of age, he had attained an honorable place at the Bar, prominence throughout our state as an orator, and had reached high official position in the state government. His heart was as good, as his head was clear. Very few enemies, and friends without number, were his. I rise to relate an incident which I heard told of him by Capt. Green of the United States Army, the day after the battle of Bull Run: Capt. Green's battery was stationed near the left wing of the army, where he was ordered to open on the enemy's right. He had some difficulty in finding a regiment willing to cover his battery, when Col. Jackson stepped forward, and voluntarily said, "I will cover your battery with *my* regiment, sir." He kept his word, and Capt. Green pronounced him a good officer and brave man. The promptness and courage shown by him on that occasion, proves how worthily he filled his high military command. The words "I will cover your battery with my regiment, sir," and the valor of himself and men on that day, will ever be a just source of pride to his friends and countrymen, and carry his name far down to the future.

Hon. A. D. Robinson, Chairman of the Committee, then presented the following

RESOLUTIONS.

In the flower of his age, in the midst of a life giving the most brilliant promise, has departed from this world, William A. Jackson, a member of the Albany Bar. Assembled as we are in view of this sad event:

Resolved, That we have heard of the death of our late associate, William A. Jackson, with feelings of heartfelt sorrow. Short, comparatively, as has been his career among us, we had not failed to recognize and appreciate his intellectual abilities, his noble qualities of mind, and his high attainments. His genial disposition, added to these, endeared him to us, and pleasant thoughts of our intercourse with him in times gone by linger round his memory.

Resolved, That we honor the memory of him who, leaving the well earned rewards of his profession, volunteered at his country's call to do her bidding. While acting nobly his part as a patriot and a soldier, he was summoned hence, and there was added to the roll of the honored dead the name of our departed brother.

Resolved, That in his death our country has lost an officer who had proved himself worthy the trust reposed in him; our profession a cherished ornament; and a large circle of friends and acquaintances one endeared by the strongest ties of love and friendship.

Resolved, That sympathizing as we do with the family of the deceased, we would point them to his honorable career, and pray that God would sustain and comfort them in this the hour of their affliction and trial.

The resolutions having been unanimously adopted, Hon. John K. Porter suggested that the officers of the meeting, and Messrs. Pruyn, Cochrane, Olcott, Shepard, Strong and J. Howard King, be appointed a Committee, on behalf of the Bar, to prepare some fitting Memorial, more effectually to perpetuate the proceedings of this meeting.

On motion of Orlando Meads, Esq., the meeting adjourned.

Proceedings at the Executive Chamber.

By direction of his Excellency, Gov. Morgan, the members of his staff, present in Albany, met in the Executive Chamber, on the evening of Nov. 12th, to take such action as might be deemed appropriate in regard to the death of Col. William A. Jackson, commanding the 18th Regiment of New York State Volunteers, and formerly Inspector-General of this State, who expired at Washington on the evening of the 11th instant.

The following members of his staff were present: Adjutant-General Hillhouse, Inspector-General Patrick, Commissary-General Welch, Surgeon-General Vanderpoel, Quartermaster-General Van Vechten, Aide-de-Camp Arden, and Military Secretary Linsley

On assuming the Chair, his Excellency expressed, with great feeling, his deep sense of the sad occasion which had induced him to convene the members of his military family, and suggested that such action should be had as the melancholy event called for.

He added that the death of Col. Jackson came upon us with peculiar force. That he had been an esteemed member of his staff, and was a much-loved citizen of Albany at the time he assumed the command of the Regiment, and that it was eminently proper that this especial notice should be taken of his death, by himself and the members of his staff who were now present.

Whereupon Com.-Gen. Welch, with the permission of his Excellency, submitted the following resolutions :

Resolved, That we have heard, with emotions of profound sorrow, of the death of a former associate, Col. William A. Jackson, commanding the 18th Regiment of New York Volunteers, who was among the first to sacrifice honorable public position, professional honors and emoluments, and cherished personal associations, in defence of the flag of the country and the integrity of the Union.

Resolved, That in the death of this young soldier, who was endeared to us by those sterling characteristics of manhood which he possessed in so eminent a degree, we are overwhelmed with grief, not only because an estimable friend and associate has been taken from us, but because the country, now passing the

severest ordeal of its existence, has lost one of its able and zealous champions.

Resolved, That the loss of Col. Jackson, so deeply felt here, in the city of his former residence, and so much to be deplored everywhere, calls for some public manifestation of the wide spread sorrow which his early death has evoked.

Resolved, That his Excellency the Governor, be respectfully requested to forward to the immediate relatives of the deceased, a copy of these resolutions, with an expression of our deep and unaffected sympathy with them in this, their great bereavement.

Which were unanimously adopted.

General Order.

HEADQUARTERS 5TH BRIGADE, }
November 15, 1861. }

[GENERAL ORDER NO. 13.]

The General commanding the Brigade, on his return, has heard with lively sorrow of the decease of Col. William A. Jackson, commanding the 18th Regiment, New York Volunteers.

Deprived, by circumstances over which he had no control, of the melancholy privilege of witnessing his last moments or of being present at the funeral obsequies, the General commanding wishes at least to testify his profound sense of the loss to the service experienced by the decease of this accomplished soldier and gentleman.

The high state of discipline and efficiency attained by the 18th Regiment is a testimony to the zeal and intelligence of the deceased more honorable and complete than the most elaborate eulogium.

By order Brig. Gen. NEWTON.

JAS. E. MONTGOMERY, Asst. Adj. Gen.

Resolutions of the 18th Regiment.

At a meeting of the 18th Regiment, N. Y. S. V., at Camp King, Nov. 18th, 1861, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted :

Whereas, it has pleased God, in his all-wise providence, to take from our midst our beloved Colonel, William A. Jackson ; therefore, be it

Resolved, That while we bow in submission to the fiat that has taken from us our gallant and generous commander, we deeply mourn his death, and feel that we have lost not only an accomplished and brave officer, but a true friend and brother.

Resolved, That in the death of Col. Jackson, the nation has lost a patriot, the army of the Potomac one of her ablest and most efficient officers ; one who, in the hour of battle, sacrificed all considerations of personal safety to the interests of his country.

Resolved, That while cognizant of our own sadness, we are not forgetful of the grief of those upon whom the affliction falls most heavily. To the be-

reaved parents and family of the deceased, we tender our heartfelt sympathy and condolence.

Resolved, That the Regiment wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be transmitted to the parents of the deceased, to Co. A, Albany Zouave Cadets, 10th Regiment N. Y. S. M., and to the Albany and Schenectady papers.

WM. H. YOUNG, Lt. Col.,

Commanding 18th N. Y. S. V.

Lieut. WM. HORSFALL, Acting Adjutant.

Resolutions of the Albany Zouave Cadets.

At a meeting of the Albany Zouave Cadets, held at their armory, Monday evening, November 11th, Capt. Cuyler Van Vechten announced to the company the solemn news of the death of Col. Jackson. On motion, a committee of four were appointed, who reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That we profoundly deplore the loss sustained by our country in the death of that gallant and accomplished officer, William A. Jackson, late Colonel 18th Regiment New York State Volunteers.

Resolved, That in this calamity we, as a company, mourn the departure of one who, connected with our organization from its origin, was equally loved by us for his many noble qualities of heart, and admired for his high intellectual culture and abilities.

Resolved, That we tender our sympathies to the officers and privates of the 18th Regiment, in appreciation of the great loss they have been called upon to meet in the death of their leader; and that we

sincerely condole with the relatives of the deceased in their present deep affliction.

Resolved, That we attend the funeral obsequies and escort the remains to the tomb with military honors; and that we wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the family of the deceased; and also to the 18th Regiment, and that these resolutions be inserted in the daily papers of this city.

(Signed.)

A. C. JUDSON, Chairman.

D. S. BENTON, Secretary,







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